

## **David Cotterrell: Hill33**

Venue: Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail, Gloucestershire

Curators: Carolyn Black

Date: 9th October 2010

Working with the 100 Field Squadron of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers to build the work, the artist has realised one of the most ambitious land art projects in the UK.

Landfill reclaimed from Eastern United Coal Mine is contained in HESCO Concertainer<sup>®</sup> units, which are regularly used by the Army to build shelters and large-scale defence structures in Afghanistan, but also have pseudo-civilian applications and can be employed as flood barriers.

The pyramid-like work is informed both by Cotterrells memories of Mayan temples hidden in the rainforests of Central America and his experiences at Camp Bastion and Sangin, Afghanistan, where he was commissioned as a war artist by the Wellcome Trust and the Ministry of Defence in 2008.

Cotterrells inversion of conflict-specific design for civilian introspection invites consideration of the role of the military in contemporary Britain. The structure denies obvious monumentality like Shelleys Ozymandius, it is destined to return to its source, obscured by the plant life that takes root in its soil.

Of the work, Cotterrell says: My early visits to the Forest offered an unexpected series of contradictory perspectives. The glades of bluebells, dappled light and fabulous weather offered an idyllic vision of natural beauty. However, its also a landscape shaped by historic industries and human intervention. Reclaimed through time, the residue of free-mining, charcoal burning and commercial forestry is discretely camouflaged beneath the prolific growth of plant life.

Jake McQueen, Product Manager for HESCO Bastion comments: David saw the HESCO walls and bunkers that protect our troops on operations in Camp Bastion and Sangin, Afghanistan. To the best of our knowledge the product has never been used to form an artwork so imaginative and exciting, which is why we are so delighted to support this project.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Fisk, Commanding Officer Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers, said: The task provided a great chance for soldiers from the Royal Engineers Territorial Army to train for the very task they will conduct on operations. Using the very skills required of the modern-day military engineer on operations and under the watchful eye of the artist, the Territorial Soldiers used their training, experience and equipment to create Hill33.

The Forestry Commission works with the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust to keep the Sculpture Trail relevant. Hill33 has been further supported by funding from the Gloucestershire Environment Trust and sponsorship from HESCO.

Sculpture Trust Projects Director Carolyn Black commented: We were very excited to receive Davids proposal as it reflects the Forests unique heritage, as well as making a very unusual addition to the work already on the Trail. We are also very grateful to the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers, for helping to build this new work as a training exercise. To our knowledge, it is the highest HESCO structure ever made and the first sculpture in this particular material. I love the way it slowly reveals itself between the trees. I wonder how long it will take for the forest to reclaim Hill33?

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust invites you

to the launch of **Hill33** on Saturday 9th October 2010. Hill33 is a substantial and exciting new work by **David Cotterrell** and is our biggest artwork yet.

**HILL 33 DAVID COTTERRELL**

The weekend celebration includes:

<b>Saturday 9th October:</b>	10am - 3pm	Family workshops using miniature HESCO Bastion Concentrator®
<b>Saturday 9th &amp; Sunday 10th October:</b>	10am - 5pm	Exhibition in the Loft at Beechenhurst Lodge, showing scale model of Hill33
<b>Saturday 9th October:</b>	2pm	Launch of Hill33 at the sculpture (marked on the map below)
<b>Saturday 9th October:</b>	3pm - 5pm	Refreshments in the Gavellers Cafe at Beechenhurst Lodge

Hill33 was commissioned for the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail thanks to funding from The Gloucestershire Environmental Trust and the Forest of Dean District Council, and sponsorship from HESCO Bastion, it was built by the Royal Marmourstone Royal Engineers.

The Sculpture Trail is operated by a Charitable Trust and is committed to displaying sculpture within a working forest. Our partnership with the Forestry Commission is essential to our work on the Trail, as is the support we receive from Arts Council England.

The Trust requires £10k in maintenance alone each year and a further £40k per year if we are to continue to increase the number of works on the Trail. Please contact us if you would like to support us.

Beechenhurst Lodge, Nr. Coleford, Gloucestershire. Directions are available on our website.

[www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk](http://www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk)  
Email: [forestofdean@gmail.com](mailto:forestofdean@gmail.com)

FOREST OF DEAN SCULPTURE TRUST

Invitation Credit: Orest of Dean Sculpture Trust (2010)

**HILL 33 DAVID COTTERRELL**

The design for Hill33 was informed by Cotterrell's memory of seeing Mayan temple facades within the rainforests in Central and South America, an influence that can be clearly seen in the way the sculpture nestles in the woodland.

Hill33 is made of HESCO Bastion Concentrator® units, which are used by the Army to build shelters and large-scale defence structures in Afghanistan, as well as for civilian use - such as providing the protection around Tewkesbury water pumping station during the floods in 2008.

David Cotterrell's first sight of HESCO Bastion Concentrator® was when he was based in Afghanistan as a war artist, commissioned by the Wellcome Trust.

Map labels include: Hill 33, Beechenhurst Lodge, House of the Deans, Observatory, Hanging Pine, Speech House, Melissa's Swing, Raw, Echo, and various 'Trail continues' markers.

Logos at the bottom include: Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust, HESCO, and other partners.

Invitation Credit: Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust (2010)